

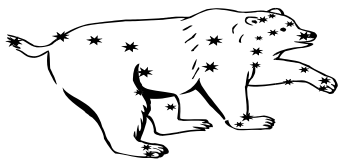
Northwoods Journal – July 2013

A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County’s Outdoor Life

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Astronomy Night at the Harmony Arboretum



Have you ever wanted to know more about the night sky? Anne Bartels of Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division will give a free stargazing tour of the summer night sky and share general astronomy information from 9:00-10:00p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at the Harmony Arboretum, located 7 miles west of Marinette & ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E.

Learn about constellations, look for satellites and meteors, make a star chart, and enjoy an evening under the stars! Viewing equipment will be available but please feel free to bring your own. Dress for the weather. Hot beverages will be provided. If inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for Friday 7/27. For more information, call 715-732-7784.

Harmony Arboretum & Demonstration Gardens is a 460-acre county farm that has been developed into a conservation and horticulture education and demonstration area. The arboretum holds a majestic hardwood forest, winding walking trails, a restored prairie, and demonstration vegetable and flower gardens complete with a windmill for water. It is always open to the public free of charge.

An Introduction to the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern

Benjamin Uvaas, Wisconsin DNR

Although often overlooked, the Great Lakes are truly national treasures. An amazing 84% of the fresh surface water in North America is contained in the Great Lakes. Around 10% of Americans and 30% of Canadians live in the Great Lakes basin. Lake Michigan is the second largest Great Lake with a surface area of 22,300 square miles, making it the 5th largest lake in the world.



A scenic view from Peninsula State Park in Door County

Lake Michigan is Wisconsin’s “working lake” and is a critical part of Wisconsin’s economy. The availability of water and an inexpensive, easy way to transport goods brought many industries to the shores and tributaries of Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan cities also benefit from charter fishing, recreational boating and marina activity. Lake Michigan has been impacted by many human activities and significant efforts are needed to restore this magnificent resource.

The United States and Canada have committed to restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Agreement identifies rivers, lakes and harbors draining into the Great Lakes that suffer from significant environmental problems. These are called “Areas of Concern” and plans are in motion to restore them.



Although modern environmental regulations protect the Menominee River today, decades of unregulated industrial activity, combined sewer overflows, and wetland filling have taken their toll. **The Lower Menominee River, downstream from the Park Mill Dam to the mouth, was designated an Area of Concern in 1987.** Six impairments have been identified due mainly to contamination of the river bottom. However, the last few years have seen a flurry of actions to restore the Lower Menominee River.

The parties found responsible for contamination in the Lower Menominee River are actively working to clean up the contaminated sediment, making a better river for all! Cleanup is achieved by dredging contaminated sediments out of the river and safely disposing them in properly designed landfills. A cleanup resulting in the disposal of about 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment was completed offshore from Boom Landing in Marinette, WI earlier this year.



Sediment investigation in the river

Also in Marinette, 2013 is the second year of a massive cleanup focusing on the Menominee River turning basin and 6th Street boat launch areas. By the projects end, **more than 250,000 cubic yards of contaminated material will be removed from the riverbed**. Other cleanup projects are coming soon, but are still in the planning stages.

Dredging removes pollutants harmful to people, fish, and wildlife, and are also generally expected to improved water depths for boating, provide new opportunities for economic development and tourism, and may lead to fish and wildlife habitat restoration.

The Wisconsin DNR has teamed up with the Michigan DNR and DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) to develop a plan to preserve and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern. A group of local stakeholders called the Citizens Advisory Committee is working with the state agencies to prioritize sites for habitat protection and restoration. Key pieces of the plan call for:

- Providing sturgeon safe passage around Park Mill and Menominee Dams to help reproduction
- Protecting and improving island and shoreline habitat for water birds like herons and egrets (below)
- Improving wetland spawning habitat for fish



Continued next page

Menominee River, continued

Once complete, these projects will benefit local fish and wildlife populations, and in turn, the local community.

Funding for these projects is being sought in part through the **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**. The federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative provides unprecedented funding for protection and restoration efforts on the five Great Lakes. State and local governments and non-profit organizations compete for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding to address toxic substances, invasive species, runoff pollution, habitat protection and restoration, environmental monitoring, and partnership building.

If you would like to learn more about the restoration of the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern or participate in the next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, contact Ben Uvaas at (920)-662-5465 or by e-mail at Benjamin.uvaas@wisconsin.gov. You can also learn more online at dnr.wi.gov – type in “Great Lakes”.



Visit **Hemlock Curve Nature Trail** on the banks of the Peshtigo River

Looking for a quiet place to get out and enjoy nature? Try the **Hemlock Curve Nature Trail**, part of the Peshtigo Harbor Area Trails system. This 2.4-mile walking trail has two scenic loops that journey past the sparkling waters of the Peshtigo River. Along the way, learn about the many features of this area with a trail guide provided at a trailhead kiosk.



The Peshtigo River Trail, completed in September 2004, is an 11-mile self-guided canoe trail on the Lower Peshtigo River, starting at the boat landing located on County Road B by the municipal garage in Peshtigo. Hemlock Curve Nature Trail was completed in July 2005. The Woods Road Ski Trail, a cross-country ski trail with wildlife learning stations was completed in January 2006. It is located on Hale School Road south of Hemlock Curve Nature Trail.

Take the Peshtigo Exit from Highway 41. Once on Business 41 in Peshtigo, turn on West Front Street (near bridge). This eventually turns into Hale Road and crosses over the interstate highway. After a few miles, turn left onto Harbor Road, and left again onto Badger Road (look for brown directional signs like the one above). Trail guides are available at a kiosk at the trailhead. Parking is limited & insect repellent is recommended.

This trail is part of the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area Trails Project. A partnership between Marinette County Land & Water Conservation, the Department of Natural Resources, and UW-Extension and a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program made this project possible. For more information, please call the Land & Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780.

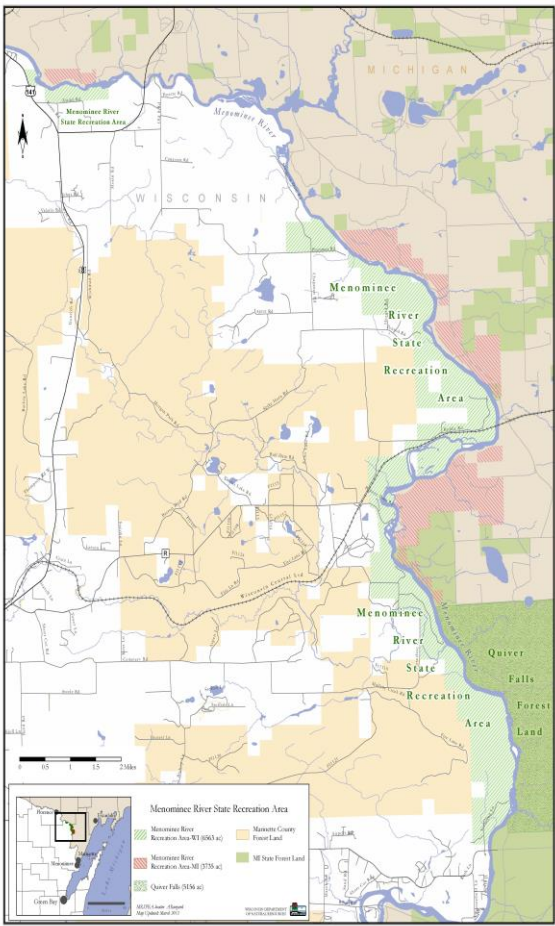


Menominee River State Recreation Area
Anna Cisar, Land Information Department



Are you looking for a great place to spend the day and step into nature? The **Menominee River State Recreation Area** is the place to go! It's located in the townships of Beecher and Pembine, consisting of nearly 10,000 acres of public land. It has roughly 17 undeveloped miles along the river. This preserved area is a great place to get away from everything and enjoy the natural settings of northern Marinette County.

This Recreation Area consists of aspen, pine, oak, and swamp conifers providing prime habitat for abundant wildlife. The property contains Quiver Falls, Pemene Falls, and part of the Pemebonwon River. It's open to hunting, fishing, canoeing, and camping. This natural asset needs to be managed and protected for the public, so the Wisconsin DNR devised a plan in 2000 for the Menominee River Natural Resources Area to maintain and enhance the area's natural qualities while keeping it open and compatible for recreational use.



Both the Wisconsin and Michigan Departments of Natural Resources are managing the Menominee River State Recreation Area, developed in 2010, adding onto the Menominee River Natural Resources Area. As the Menominee River is the boundary between these two states, they have the opportunity to coordinate planning and management. Now that the area has expanded and become the Menominee River State Recreation Area, the Wisconsin DNR will incorporate the existing plan with the new plan they create with Michigan DNR, which should be developed in the next 18 months.

Keep reading to see some of what they hope to do and what they've accomplished on this beautiful piece of land!

Existing Objectives

- Manage the project area vegetation to provide a natural diversity of age class and species.
- Promote about 700 acres of old growth forest within 200 feet of the Menominee River, or to the visual horizon, whichever is greater, and on other appropriate sites in the project.
- Maintain a minimum 900 acres of aspen in various stages of maturity.
- Implement a normal fire response to protect life and property within the project boundary, using best management practices and “light-on-the-land” techniques. Land rehabilitation will be done where needed to prevent non-point source pollution to the Menominee River, associated tributaries, and wetlands on the property.
- Provide two designated canoe access campsites within the river corridor and allow camping on the islands within the property boundaries.
- Provide designated vehicular access to the property.
- Provide about two miles of hiking trail in the river corridor, developed to primitive standards.
- Provide public access to waterfall areas.



The Pier's Gorge area is popular for whitewater rafting as it has class IV & V rapids



Pier's Gorge – Mishicot Falls


Accomplishments


- Vegetation Management** – they have been able to promote old growth characteristics and a more suitable wildlife habitat.
- Public Access** – All hiking trails were inspected and maintained. With the new project they hope to create more public access.
- Recreation Management** – 2 miles of hiking trail were added near Verhayen Lane/Pemene Falls location; 2 designated canoe access campsites within the river corridor are now offered; and camping on islands within the property boundaries

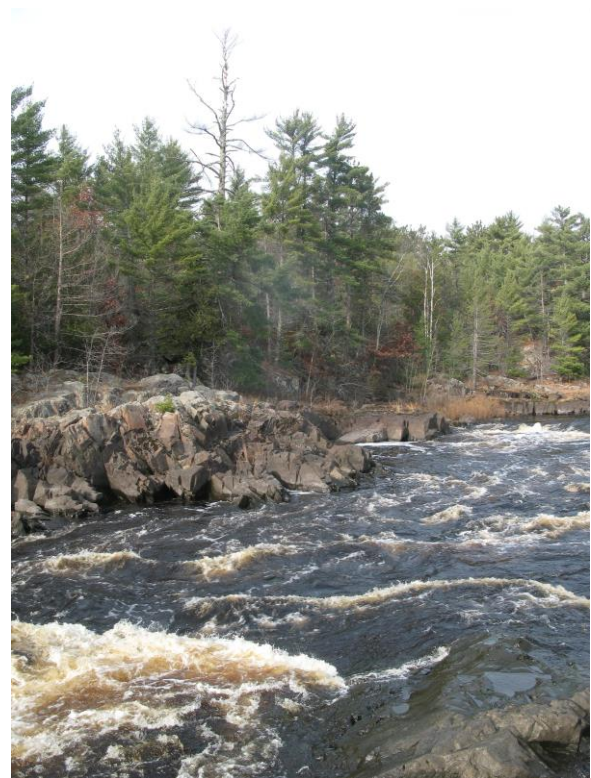
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Menominee State Recreation Area, continued

is now allowed. More camping areas will be created in conjunction with Michigan's plans.






 **Development** – the DNR and the Marinette County Highway Department constructed a parking lot at Quiver Falls, a canoe launch/take out site, and a boat landing downstream of Quiver Falls, along with Pemene Falls parking and access. The areas are annually inspected and maintained. A guide map was constructed to inform the public about the property.

 **Land Acquisition** – More land was added to certain regions within the property to protect sensitive areas.



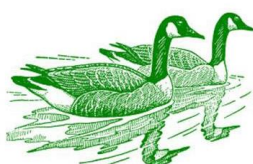
Pemene Falls Area

Fun Facts

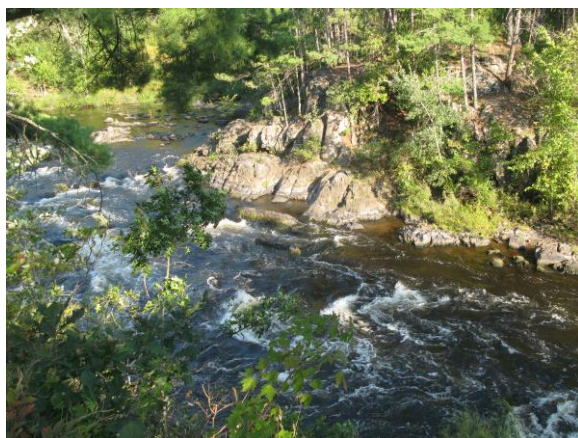
-  The Menominee River takes its name from an Indian tribe, the Menominee, which lived on the river bank near the mouth. The Menominee people grew wild rice, making it appropriate for both the tribe and the river be named Menominee.
-  The Menominee River is over 117 miles long and has an average annual discharge of 3,173 cubic feet per second at its mouth. At the source, the river has an elevation of 1,150 feet to 580 feet at the mouth.
-  The lay of the land was affected by glacial moraines. This particular region could have still been ice covered as recently as 11,000 years ago.
-  The region is sparsely populated with about 27 people per square mile. The state average is 87 people per square mile.
-  Forestry and tourism are the county's two major bases for the economy; the county has 231,655 acres of forest.



Another view in the Pemene Falls Area



Below: Quiver Falls Area



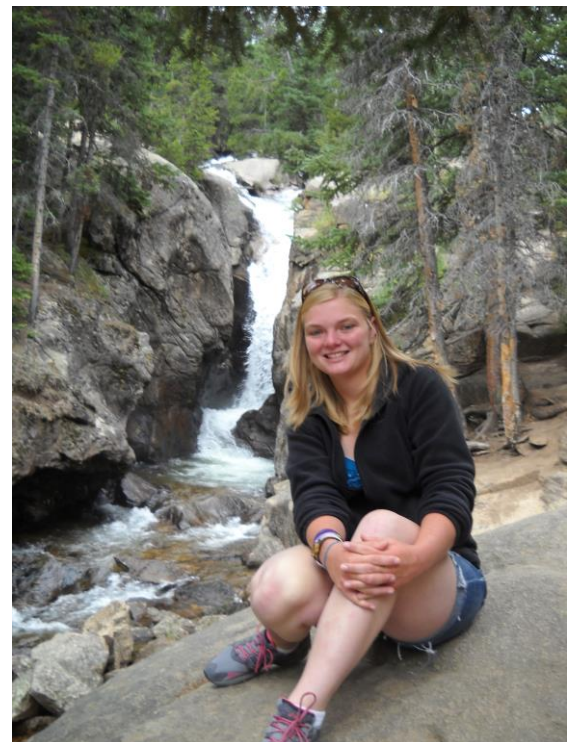
Visit online at www.dnr.gov for more information about this and other state recreation areas, parks, and trails.

Information for this article found at:

- http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/documents/MP_NRA_Menominee-2000.pdf
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/documents/MP-MR-MenomineeNRA-2009.pdf>
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/documents/MP-MR-MenomineeNRA-2010.pdf>



Meet the Land Information Department's Summer Intern!



I'm Anna Cisar, the Marinette County Land Information Department summer intern. I'm a 2010 graduate of Peshtigo High School and am currently enrolled at Carroll University in Waukesha, WI. I will graduate in the spring of 2014 with a major in Environmental Science and Chemistry minor.

I'm looking forward to the summer here with the Land Information Department doing field work and environmental education, and learning new things and helping kids to understand our environment. So far I have enjoyed getting out and helping teach kids to canoe and working on stream crossings within the Pemebonwon Watershed.

Outside of class and work I enjoy camping, hiking, rock climbing, and kayaking. Spending time at the cabin in northern Marinette County with family and friends will always be a favorite pastime! I had the opportunity to study Belize's environment and resources this last year - the trip there was a great way to learn and experience more about the natural world outside of the mid-latitudes.

I love the outdoors, which is why I chose to study Environmental Science and why I think that exploring and working with nature is an important career.

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The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

Published in cooperation by:

- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation
- Marinette Co. Parks & Outdoor Recreation
- Marinette Co. UW-Extension

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Please send comments to:
Marinette County LWCD
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143
abartels@marinettecounty.com



Why Save Wisconsin's Bats?

From <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/bats.html> & <http://batcon.org>

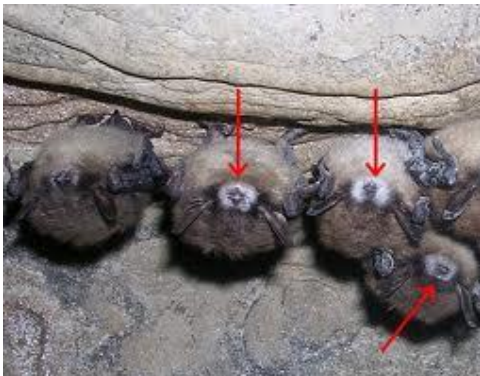


Little Brown bats

Bats are a vital part of many ecosystems. They help control pests and pollinate and disperse seeds for countless plants. As predators of biting insects, bats may also play an important role in reducing risk of insect-borne diseases, such as the West-Nile Virus. For now, Wisconsin's bat population is stable. But a deadly fungus is racing through cave-dwelling bat populations in eastern states causing extensive mortality, and it's headed this way.

White-nose Syndrome

White-nose syndrome (WNS), a devastating disease of hibernating bats, has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history. It is caused by the fungus *Geomyces destructans*, and is rapidly spreading through cave bat populations across the country. Since it was first discovered in 2006, WNS has infected six species of insect-eating bats in the northeastern and southern U.S., causing declines approaching 100 percent in some populations. Estimated losses have exceeded one million bats over the past three years. This syndrome poses a severe threat to all four of Wisconsin's cave bat species.



Affected bats – arrows show WNS

Why should we care?

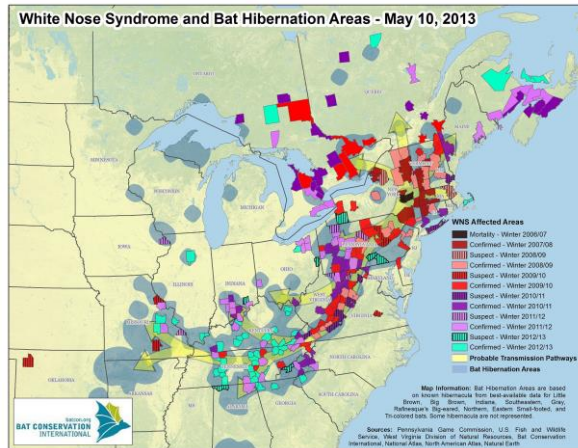
Bats are a vital part of many ecosystems and white-nose syndrome has significant environmental, economic and public health implications. Insectivorous bats consume large numbers of agricultural pests, which cost farmers and foresters billions of dollars yearly. Bats play an important role in sustaining many unique and fragile cave ecosystems. For example, bats are the primary source of nutrients in many cave systems, and many cave-obligate species depend on such input for survival. Thus, the loss or significant reduction of bat populations from caves could have cascading effects that impact the status of many other cave species.



Background

In February 2006, some 40 miles west of Albany, New York, a caver photographed hibernating bats with an unusual white substance on their muzzles. He noticed several dead bats. The following winter, bats behaving erratically, bats with white noses and a few hundred dead bats in several caves came to the attention of New York biologists, who


documented white-nose syndrome in January 2007. Named after the distinctive white growth that appears on the nose and wings of affected bats, **as of December 2012, white-nose syndrome (WNS) is only 30 miles from Wisconsin.**





Spread of WNS since 2006 – note the large bat hibernation areas in Wisconsin (shaded in gray)

How you can help

Help save Wisconsin bats! Here are critical needs to help keep cave bats flying in Wisconsin's night sky and keep agricultural and other winged pests in check.


 There are many volunteer opportunities available to the public. For details, please visit the Wisconsin Bat Monitoring Program at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats>. Contact dnrbats@wisconsin.gov or call (608-266-5216).


 Volunteer to monitor bats: Learn how to use a bat detector to help bat biologists count & locate Wisconsin bats. Watch a known bat roost in the summer to help state researchers get a better handle on bat colony numbers and locations of bat roosts.

 Build a bat house: Get easy-to-follow instructions to build a bat house that will help provide a summer roost for bats while helping keep a check on insect pests in your yard and summer garden.



The Red bat is an insectivorous tree-dweller

 Keep bats out of your buildings: As their roosting habitat declines, bats may seek refuge inside your house, bell towers or other buildings. Get tips on getting them out of your house safely BUT avoid doing this work between June 1 and Aug. 15, when bat pups are born and nursing in their roosts. State law prohibits activities to try to shut bats out of buildings during this time.

 Help boost the shoestring budget for bat work: Limited public dollars are available for efforts to save bats from white-nose syndrome, which makes private contributions for such work even more important. Separate funds have been set up to meet short-term and long-term needs.

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Marinette County has a New Assistant Parks Administrator

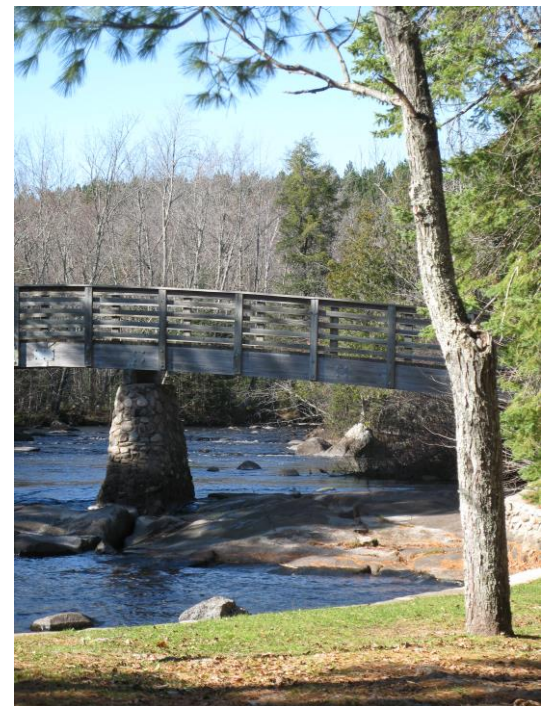
Dave Marquardt has assumed the role as Assistant Parks Administrator for Marinette County effective May 6, 2013. He brings extensive experience in the field of Parks and Recreation with 17 years of employment as Parks and Recreation Director with the communities of Peshtigo and Marinette. Dave resides in Peshtigo with his wife of 27 years, Joy, and their 12 year old son, Reid.

After graduation from Peshtigo High School he pursued a degree in Parks and Recreation Administration graduating from UW-La Crosse in 1981. He has been involved in coaching youth baseball, basketball, and football in the local community and is a member of the M&O officials association. Among his interests are camping, golfing, and involvement with his son's sports teams.

Dave was an original member of the River Cities Recreational Task Force during the construction of the Hockey/Tennis Domes in the City of Marinette. He was fund raising chairman for Peshtigo Youth Baseball in 2010 and led the group in reaching their goals to construct a combination storage area/restroom/concession stand facility.

Under his leadership the City of Peshtigo accomplished a major transformation of Badger Park Campground. It included construction of a new pavilion, renovation of existing campground sites, construction of 2 new sleeping cabins, major exterior/interior facelifts of restroom facilities, a new dumping station, and installation of water to all camping sites. Riverfront Park also received a total facelift during his tenure with a new gazebo, riverfront walking, and bountiful landscaping being the showcase projects.

You can contact Dave at 715-732-7531 or email him at dmarquardt@marinettecounty.com. The newly located Parks Office is in the County Highway Shop at 501 Pine Street in Peshtigo.



A scenic view at Goodman Park – visit the Parks website for more information on this and other county parks

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and click "Northwoods Journal" in the Quick Links menu at the right of the page. We can send an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist: abartels@marinettecounty.com or call 715-732-7784 for more information.



The Worth of an Acre - of Farmland

By Scott Reuss, Agriculture/Horticulture Agent, UW-Extension

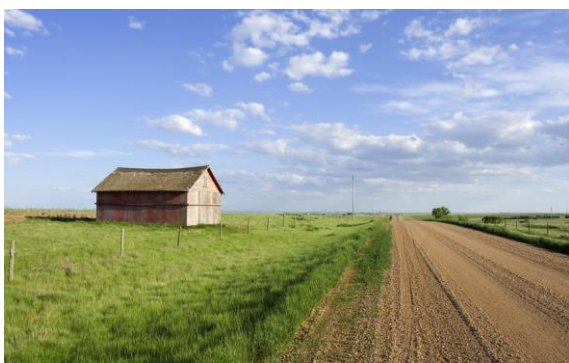


"How much is my land worth?" As with any open market commodity, there is not a single absolute answer to that question for any parcel of land. Factors such as soil type, location, drainage concerns, size of the parcel, practice restrictions, and other factors will all help determine a parcel's value.

Farmland values have certainly increased in recent years. The average bare agricultural land sold in Oconto and Marinette Counties in 1997 had a purchase price of \$683 per acre, with a range of \$194 to \$1,531. By 2001, this average purchase price had risen to \$1,546 and the increases had just begun. 2005 sales averaged \$2,223. 2009 sale average was \$3,002 and the just recently released 2012 sales data indicated an average of \$2,892.

Businesses work because of return on investment. If you had invested in land in 1997 and sold it in 2012, your return over investment would have been 323%. In those years, total inflation was 41%, so you would have beaten inflation eight-fold.

So, why have land values increased so much more quickly than inflation? One part of the puzzle is that historical farmland values in our two counties were undervalued relative to similar land. Although difficult to put solid numbers to this discount, it is realistic that our 1997 average value was 30-50% below comparable land elsewhere.



Another obvious part of the puzzle is our primary agricultural commodity prices. If farms get more for their products, they can pay more for land. Our primary commodities are milk and corn, with milk accounting for twice as much income as corn. Milk prices have increased since 1997, but average national farm mailbox price has only risen by 39% from 1997 to 2012, so dairy prices certainly aren't the driver of land value increases. Corn prices do show a very significant increase, increasing by 156% in those years. However, we must remember that we can't add the dairy and corn increases together, as a farm generally sells one or the other, not both. The other factor is that profit per acre and price per bushel don't directly correlate, but that's a different article

for a different day.

If we add all our factors together to this point for a grain farm, we come up with a justifiable increase of 237%, which is still about 85% short of our real increase. Where does this last portion come from? Concrete and steel, that's where. In this same set of years we've been analyzing, Wisconsin has lost over a million acres (about 7%) of farmland to concrete, asphalt, lawns, and buildings. Whenever you decrease the amount of something that is available, the price of that commodity will increase due to competition. Local competition will also drive the precise value of an individual parcel of land.

Renting farmland

"How much is my farmland worth to rent?" My response to this very common question always starts with: "There are key factors that affect your land's value. They are: location, size (acres), soil type, drainage problems, restrictions on practices, and length of contract."



Rental rates have increased significantly in recent years, directly related to land sale values. In 2012, the average WI acre rented for 3.1% of its sale value. Annually, the percentage rent to value in our area has ranged from as low as 2.5% to as high as 4%, with the long-term average being about 3.5%. Using these ratios and the land sale values above, one would expect most annual rental rates to be between \$75 and \$120 per acre, averaging about \$105.

Calculations and reality are fairly close, but many local parcels rent well outside this expected range and the difference from top to bottom of the range is also significant. The reasons for an individual parcel's value being on the bottom, at the average, or over the top part of expectations are based on the five factors above.

Location is the most important factor, as location dictates how much competition there will be. Simply put, the more farms interested in a parcel, the more rent that a landowner will receive. A 60-acre parcel of the exact same soil located near Goodman is simply not worth as much as if it were located near Coleman, as fewer farms can profitably travel to the Goodman parcel.

Parcel size is mostly an issue on the smaller end. Small fields (less than 15 acres) are less likely to be profitable than larger fields, thus smaller parcels or parcels with all small fields will bring less competition. The same will be true if there are **restrictions** on the land such as no manure spreading, no planting of certain

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County Landfill & Area Recycling Information

MAR-OCO County Landfill
(Marinette and Oconto Counties)
N7785 Shaffer Road, 5 miles west of
Crivitz off of County Rd. A
(715) 854-7530

2013 Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th Saturdays, April – October
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Closed all other Saturdays, Sundays & holidays

Yard waste, liquid waste, automobile parts, & recyclables are not accepted. Disposal fees apply.

For more information, visit online at
www.marinettecounty.com



Recycling Centers

Town of Stephenson

Twin Bridge site, County X
Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Crivitz site, August Street
Wednesday and Saturday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bundled newspaper, 6-8" stacks of bundled cardboard, magazines, glass bottles and jars, rinsed tin cans, aluminum, plastic containers (1 & 2), used motor oil, car batteries, scrap metal & yard waste accepted. For more information visit online at <http://www.stephensonwisc.com/>.

Town of Peshtigo

W1945 Old Peshtigo Road
2nd, 4th, 5th Saturdays each month
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays each month
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We accept tires, appliances and air conditioners with Freon, stoves, microwaves, washers, dryers, any kind of metal (no motor vehicles), televisions, automotive oil (no cooking oil or antifreeze), paper, cardboard, plastic, glass, aluminum, tin, batteries, bagged garbage and yard waste. No paint or hazardous materials. Some fees may apply. Visit <http://townofpeshtigo.org> for more information. Residents only.

Township of Athelstane

(715) 856-6428
Wednesday, 12:00 – 4p.m.
Saturday, 12:00 – 4p.m.
Sunday, 8a.m.– 4p.m.

Cans, cardboard, brown & clear glass, magazines, paper, plastic #1 & #2, and drain oil accepted; no building materials or paint. Some yard waste accepted. Fees may apply. For more information visit: <http://athelstanewi.com/recycle.htm>.



Farmland, continued

crops, no pesticide use, or other limitations.



Farms that are considering renting a new parcel will analyze the soil. Sandy soils or fields with erodible land are lower-yielding on average and significantly riskier any given year due to drought potential. **Soil types** which do not drain well can also create low-yield conditions including delayed planting, temporary flooding, or higher disease and nutrient problem risks. A landowner can install drainage tile systems in such fields or work with a farm in a longer-term renting arrangement and share the costs of tile systems.

The final factor is **contract length**. If a farm knows they will be able to rent a parcel for five years rather than having an annual contract, they can do more with crop rotation, nutrient management, and other factors that affect profitability. This may lead them to offer a slight premium or a guaranteed annual increase over the length of the contract.

Rental Contracts

Historically, a hand shake or a verbal promise constituted rental agreements between a landowner and a farmer. Neighbor or familial relationships were the primary consideration regarding which a landowner would have farm their land.

Now, farms generally need to provide physical evidence of land rental agreements to meet requirements of governmental programs, lenders, or crop insurance. Additionally, as land ownership transitions across generations, the value of relationships is lessened, and generally replaced by a desire for maximum economic return.



A rental contract can still be verbal in Wisconsin, but is only valid for a single year and may have difficulties proving terms of the lease. Written contracts can be for single year, year-to-year with automatic renewal, or multi-year leases. The maximum length of a lease contract in Wisconsin is 15 years. WI law also dictates that termination of an annual leasing arrangement, whether verbal or written, requires 90-day notice (unless otherwise noted in a written contract). This is considered to be January 1, as the crop production year is assumed to normally start on or about April 1. Thus, a landowner must notify producers by

January 1 if they intend to not allow them to rent their land in the upcoming year. If they do not, the producer has the legal right to farm the land that next year, at the previous year's rental price.

Written contracts can be relatively simple documents, but **must include key components to be valid**. Things that should be included are:

- ✓ legal description of the parcel or Farm Service Agency Tract/parcel identification
- ✓ printed names and addresses of both parties
- ✓ beginning & ending dates of the lease period
- ✓ signatures with dates signed
- ✓ listing of agricultural practices allowed or prohibited
- ✓ landowner rights of entry and use that are retained - such as hunting, access to parcel via trails, etc.
- ✓ monetary amounts per acre of rented land or for the total parcel.

Other provisions can be included. For example, you may have opt-out clauses; provisions for potential future changes; flexible rental values based on crop yield, crop price, or some combination of both; sharing of costs for long-term improvements, such as tiling or liming; and other possibilities.



Rental contracts are between the two parties and truly can be written to include whatever both parties will agree are correct. There are great sources of information available to assist when you are writing a contract.

Locally, you can request contract templates and information from UW-Extension offices. Electronically, the best source of templates and information regarding multiple leasing situations is found on the web at <http://www.aglease101.org/>. There are answers to frequently asked questions and a documents library that has potential contract templates and instructions. You can email them at Info@AgLease101.org.



To contact the Marinette County UW-Extension, please call 715-732-7510 or toll-free at 1-877-884-4408. Email Scott Reuss at scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu.

**Area Farmers' & Flea Markets****Marinette Main Street Farmers Market**

Open each Tuesday & Friday through October 29th except on days when the island is reserved/events. Tuesdays from 3-7pm and Fridays 7am to noon on Stephenson Island in Marinette. Call 715-732-5120 for more information.

Crivitz Farmers Market – Held

Saturdays from 9am-1 pm, June-October outdoors at the Evergreen Market in downtown Crivitz at 412 S. Hwy 141. Offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, handmade soaps and personal care items, fresh-baked breads and baked goods, etc. For more information call 715-854-3837.

Crivitz Flea Market – Through

September 1, Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A). Every Thursday and July 4 across from the Village Hall at 800 Henriette Avenue (County A) in Crivitz. Vendors can show up on Thursday morning and set up in any unreserved spot. For more information contact Barbara at 715-854-2030.

Wausaukee Area Farmers Market & More

First Saturday each month, from 9am-2pm, 1 block from east main street in the Bank North parking lot. Crafts and farm products for sale, vendors wishing to set up booths call 715-856-5341.

Oconto Farmers' Market – The Farmers'

Market is the first and third Thursday of each month from 7/2 until 10/8, from 11:30am-4:30 pm at the Oconto County Courthouse. For more information, call Hope Kersten at 920-834-7072.

Menominee Community Flea Market

Will be held at the M & M Plaza the second Saturday of every month, May through September, and also on Saturday, October 1st. Sales will run from 7am-2pm, all spaces are free, first come, vendors set up in area by T – straight across from ACE. Questions call Holly at 906-863-4808.

Menominee Farmers Market – The

Farmers' Market is located on the corner of 1st Street and 8th Avenue across from the Bandshell. Menominee, MI. June through beginning of October. Saturday market from 9am-1pm, and Thursday market from 3-7pm. For more information, contact Lucy Pier at 906-863-8718 or visit online at menomineefrmkt@hotmail.com.



Roadways and Turtles – Solutions for Safety

Source: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/turtle_flyer.pdf



This year conservation groups around the country are partnering to raise awareness of the plight of turtles.

There are many threats to turtles; roads are just one of the obstacles they encounter. These are some practical ideas on how road authorities can minimize the negative impacts of roads on turtles and other wildlife. They are recommendations and a call to action; not requirements. The science of Road Ecology challenges us further to provide safe passage for wildlife and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

The following suggestions will also help safeguard water quality, increase road safety, and may also save you time and money. Incorporating just one recommendation into your road program may be enough to improve turtle conservation in your area. It is possible to balance habitat and transportation safety issues through cooperation, collaboration and coordination.

Roadside Maintenance

- **Turtles in imminent danger should be moved by hand out of harm's way. Turtles not in imminent danger should be left undisturbed.**
- Whenever possible, avoid or minimize grading road shoulders near lakes and wetlands from mid-May to August; this will increase the chance of a successful hatch.
- Spot mow or spot spray invasive species rather than broadcast spray pesticides on roadsides.
- Roadside mowing should be done as infrequently as possible.
- Brush removal should occur in fall through early spring.
- Temporary turtle crossing signs can be installed to increase public awareness, reduce road kills, and increase road safety.
- You can help by identifying where turtles are found (dead or alive). Contact your DNR Nongame Wildlife Specialist for technical assistance.
- New road alignments should avoid bisecting wetlands. When they do, crossings should be bridged.
- On existing roads, where there are turtle hot spots, fencing should be considered to prevent turtles from attempting to cross. Fencing should lead turtles to a nearby culvert or bridge. This is more important on roads with higher average daily traffic.
- Maintenance people are often knowledgeable about the likelihood of wildlife on roads; involve them in planning reconstruction projects or new road projects.
- Traditional curb and gutter should be avoided.
- Roads should be kept to minimum standards on widths and lanes (this reduces road kills by slowing traffic and reducing the distance turtles need to cross).



Construction

- Silt fencing should keep turtles out of construction areas during the nesting season. Fencing should be removed when the area is no longer undergoing active construction.
- Avoid using erosion control products made with welded plastic mesh or webbing. Turtles, and other wildlife, can become entangled.
- Use biodegradable material in erosion control blanket and bio-logs (fiber rolls) left on site as part of final stabilization.

Passage Structures

- Turtles use rivers and streams as travel corridors and core habitat. Incorporating a passage bench into riprap design is a cost effective solution.
- Existing structures may need small modifications such as filling in riprap with gravel so turtles and other wildlife can pass safely.
- Exclusion fencing to prevent turtles from reaching the roadway may be the best option in areas where turtles have been known to cause traffic problems.
- Culverts between wetland areas, or between wetlands and nesting areas, should be sized accordingly, with a minimum diameter of 36 inches for dry culverts and bankfull width in diameter for culverts on perennially flowing waters. A flat-bottomed or arched culvert with the shortest possible length is preferred.



A likely turtle travel 'hot spot' is where a road bisects a wetland or waterway

Fencing

- For permanent fencing, standard DOT right-of-way chain-link fencing installed tight to the ground is adequate to guide turtles toward underpasses. It is critical that the fence end posts fit tightly to abutments or railings.
- Fences are most successful if they do not deflect turtle movements by more than 60 degrees.
- Methods to allow animals off the roadway also need to be incorporated into wildlife exclusion methods.
- For seasonal or temporary situations, standard erosion control is adequate.

Curb and Gutter

- Areas near lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands should have rural shoulders and vegetated swale road ditches, not typical curb and gutter stormwater systems. If a curb and gutter stormwater system must be installed, curbs that turtles can traverse should be used (Type D or Type S curb).
- Where traditional curb and gutter is to be installed, a design without the side box inlet gives the animals a better chance of moving past the storm sewer as they search for an exit route.
- If type D or S type curb is not desired, install a few feet of it on either side of the storm water drain to allow animals to exit prior to the storm sewer drop structure.
- Stormwater ponds that discharge to natural areas should not have outlets that block turtle movement.
- Traditional curb and gutter can inadvertently trap turtles within the road and direct small mammals and reptiles into the storm sewer, often with fatal results.



Type D or S curb allows turtles to leave the road surface at any point.

For More Information

This information is from *Best Practices for Meeting DNR General Public Water Permit* by Peter Leete, Transportation Hydrologist with the Minnesota DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources. The complete manual with additional information can be found at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwp/ermits/gp_2004_0001_manual.html.

Bats, continued from page 4



A Little Brown bat hunting a moth

- The Bat Conservation Fund is an endowment; about 10 percent of the endowment goal of \$2 million has been raised. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Attn: Wisconsin Bat Conservation Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 2317, Madison, WI 53701 or by donating online at wisconservation.org.
- The Bat Conservation Society of Wisconsin, Inc. is where groups & citizens can support bat projects that need immediate funding, including WNS research, WNS prevention and control, surveillance, inventory, monitoring, management, and education about the benefits of bats. Donate to this fund by sending a check to the DNR/Endangered Resources Bureau, 101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921. Write "Wisconsin Bat Society" in the memo line.

How to Help Prevent the Spread of WNS

New rules in Wisconsin prohibit transport of the WNS fungus-a prohibited invasive species.

- Do not transport items that have been underground including clothes, shoes, lights & cameras--even if they have been washed. This includes items you wore underground in another state.
- Wear a different set of clothes & shoes between caves.
- Wipe down cameras & lights using Lysol brand disinfecting wipes between visits to caves.
- These rules apply to all caves in Wisconsin (including caves in Wisconsin state parks)
- WI tourist caves & mines have measures in place to protect their site from the possibility of human assisted transfer of the WNS fungus.

Do Not Disturb Bats

Bats that use caves are threatened species in Wisconsin and are protected by law.

- When bats arouse from hibernation they use 30-60 days' worth of precious fat reserves needed to keep them alive through the winter months when food is scarce.
- Do not enter caves or mines with bats between October and May--even quiet activities may disturb hibernating bats.

Most bat species in North America (and all Wisconsin bats) feed on night-flying insects, of which many are pests of forests, agriculture, and garden crops or pose risks to human health.

More than one million bats have died due to WNS. **The number of insects consumed annually by one million bats is equivalent to 694 tons** - emphasizing the extraordinary value of these bats to the normal function of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.



Area Events Calendar

July –August	BANDS AT BADGER PARK – Peshtigo. At Badger Park in Peshtigo. Free musical entertainment 6:30 -8:30pm. Concerts held Wednesday evenings with concessions available at 5:30PM. Scheduled dates: July 10, July 24, August 7 and August 14. Call 715-582-1141 for more information.
July –August	CONCERTS IN THE PARK – Menominee, MI. Great Lakes Memorial Marina in Menominee. 7-9pm – July 25 and August 22. The event is free of charge. For more information or a listing of the bands, please call the Marinette/Menominee Chamber of Commerce (MMCC) at 715-735-6681.
July –August	CONCERTS IN THE PARK – WAUSAUKEE. Evergreen Park, Wausaukee. Refreshments available, bring your own seating. July 14, July 28, August 4, August 11, and August 14. 2pm show. More information, call 715-856-5341.
July 4	CRIVITZ 4TH OF JULY EVENTS. American Legion Parade at 11am, flea market downtown all day, after parade at Community Veterans Park food by VFW, beverages by American Legion, bouncy houses and Littleland Park is open. Fireworks at 10pm and shot from Spur Street. Snacks & refreshments served at John Shaffer Pavilion by Historical Society during fireworks. For more information, visit www.villageofcrivitz.com .
July 5	FAMILY WATER BASH. Marinette Recreation Department is sponsoring water bash at the Civic Center Pool from 6:15-8:15pm (regular admission rates apply). This week’s theme is “Happy Birthday USA”. Join us for cake and games. Call 715-732-5222 for more information.
July 8 - 12	COLLEGE 4 KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM. Arts and Sciences Camp for grades 1-3 & 4-6 held at UW-Marinette and scheduled by the Continuing Education Office. Morning classes are from 8-11:30am and afternoon classes from 12-3pm. Cost of the morning session is \$74/student - breakfast, snack and T-shirt included. The cost of the afternoon session is \$69 per student/ T-shirt and snack included. The cost for the whole day is \$143. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more details call 715-735-4342 or www.marinette.uwc.edu/continuing-ed/ .
July 10	SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARINETTE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM. July’s topic, Scrapbooking for Beginners held Wednesday evening from 7-8:30pm in the Middle School LMC. In this session you will learn how to create simple yet beautiful keepsakes that your family will cherish. Come with some of your treasures and turn them into keepsakes. For more information, call Michelle at 715-735-1392 or email her at mbezio@marinette.k12.wi.us.
July 11	DIG INTO ROCKS. Dig into rocks at the Stephenson Public Library at 2pm. Children ages 4-12 will learn the basics of collecting and identifying rocks from Dr. Keith West, UW-Marinette professor of geology. This program is offered to the public, free of charge. Call the library at 715-732-7570 for more information.
July 12	FAMILY WATER BASH. Marinette Recreation Department is sponsoring water bash at the Civic Center Pool from 6:15-8:15pm (regular admission rates apply). This week’s theme is “Raft Building Contest “. Who can build the sturdiest raft with the supplies we provide. Call 715-732-5222 for more information.
July 12 & 13	3RD ANNUAL PESHTIGO RUMMAGE ON THE RIVER. Peshtigo Community Wide Rummage Sale and sponsored by the Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce. Questions call the chamber at 715-582-0327 or peshtigochamber@centurytel.net .
July 13	FLEA MARKET & CRAFTS. Use Willow Street entrance, Stephenson, MI. Cost is one table \$5, 2 to 5 tables \$10 and over 5 tables \$20. No reservation is needed. For more information call 906-753-2342 or 906-788-4750.
July 13	CONCERTS IN THE PARK “HERITAGE FESTIVAL” “The Dang-Its”- is gritty to jazzy repertoire classics to standards and sponsored by City of Marinette. 7pm, Stephenson Island Chamber of Commerce Performance Center, Highway 41-Interstate Bridge, Marinette, WI. Concerts are presented by Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce.
July 13	M&M COMMUNITY FLEA MARKETS. All flea markets will run from 7am-2pm. There will be no charge for set up but vendors will be asked to sign a waiver and set up along pre-marked spaces at left entrance to Mall parking lot. This is a new location, set up next to old car dealership building, just south of Mikolas Jewelry. Tents are available to rent from ACE Hardware. Questions email hboyerl@hotmail.com .
July 13 & 14	MARINETTE LOGGING & HERITAGE FESTIVAL. Friday evening free family movie on Stephenson Island, July 13, 8am/ 3rd Annual Ella Smetana Memorial 5k run/walk & River Cities Charity Ride (riders leave from Applejacks restaurant), 11am/ 3rd Annual Bike & Car Show (Main Street to Wells Street) & Stephenson Island activities open with entertainment, food & craft vendors, live music, ice cream giveaways, inflatable bouncers, games for children and fireworks at dusk. July 14, 10am/ Interfaith Worship Service at Stephenson Island, noon/parade down Riverside Avenue, 1pm/ Stephenson Island activities open & 6-9pm/big band performance. For more information call 715-732-4333. No admission fee charged.
July 15 – 19	COLLEGE 4 KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM. Lego’s Camp is for K-3rd graders from 8:30-10:30am (for girls only), 11am-1pm (for mixed class) and 4-6th graders (mixed class) from 1:30-3:30pm. Snacks included for all camps. The cost is \$88 per student per session and held at UW-Marinette and scheduled by the Continuing Education Office. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more details call 715-735-4342 or www.marinette.uwc.edu/continuing-ed/
July 18	SUMMER READING CLUB PARTY. The Stephenson Public Library welcomes Anne Bartels, Education Specialist for the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division at 2pm. Children ages 4 to 12 will learn about animals of the underground. This program is offered to the public free of charge. Call the library at 715-732-7570 for more information.
July 19 - 21	11TH ANNUAL CRUISIN OLDIES FESTIVAL. Festival with car show/July 20, motorcycle & tractor show/July 21 and camping at Green Acres Campground, 6 miles west of Marinette (just off Hwy 64). Check out www.porterfieldscruisinoldies.com for more information.
July 19	FAMILY WATER BASH. Marinette Recreation Department is sponsoring water bash at the Civic Center Pool from 6:15-8:15pm (regular admission rates apply). This week’s theme is “Deck Decorating Contest”. We provide the supplies, you provide your talent. Call 715-732-5222 for more information
July 20	CHARITABLE FAERIE FEST. 11am-3pm at Peterman Brook Herb Farm, N6280 Riverview Road in Porterfield. \$5 per person and under age 2 free, discounts available for families of 5 or more. Vendors, workshops, music, food and fun. Workshop proceeds go to the DAR Boys & Girls Club. For more information call 715-927-2330 or www.petermanbrookherbfarm.com .
July 22 - 26	COLLEGE 4 KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM. College 4 Teens camp for grades 4-12. Morning classes are from 8-11:30am and afternoon classes from 12-3pm. The cost of the morning session is \$74 per student (breakfast, snack and T-shirt included) and cost for afternoon session is \$74 per student (T-shirt and snack included). The cost for the whole day is \$143 per student. Camp is held at UW-Marinette and scheduled by the Continuing Education Office. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more details call 715-735-4342 or www.marinette.uwc.edu/continuing-ed/ .
July 25	SUMMER READING CLUB PARTY. Children ages 4 to 12 will celebrate the end of Summer Reading Club with games, snacks and a messy project at the Stephenson Public Library at 2pm. This program is offered to the public free of charge. Call the library at 715-732-7570 for more information.
July 26	CONCERTS IN THE PARK. “Conga Se Menne”-blues, funk & Latin sounds. and sponsored by Bay Area Medical Center, NorthReach Health Care and Marinette Fuel & Dock 7pm, Great Lakes Memorial Marina Band Shell, First Street in Menominee, MI. Concerts are presented by Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce
July 26	FAMILY WATER BASH. Marinette Recreation Department is sponsoring water bash at the Civic Center Pool from 6:15-8:15pm (regular admission rates apply). This week’s theme is “Luau”/fun and games under the limbo stick. Call 715-732-5222 for more information.
July 27	MENKAUNEE OLD TIMERS PICNIC. Picnic held noon at Red Arrow Park for anyone age 50 plus with ties to Menekaunee. Bring your own lawn chairs and beverage. Cost/\$10 paid by July 22 or \$15 if paid later. Checks should be made payable and sent to Menekaunee Old Timers, 160 W Bay Shore Street, Marinette, WI 54143. Call Sharon at 715-735-5577 with questions.
July 27 & 28	33RD ANNUAL BROWN TROUT DERBY. July 27/4:30am-7pm and July 28/4:30am-3pm. Cost is \$20 and eligible waters are bay of Green Bay and Menominee River up to the bridge. Headquarters is Menominee Marina (Derby Center) and sponsored by M&M Great Lakes Sportsman Club. For additional information call Tom Lawson at 715-735-5619.

HARMONY ARBORETUM SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. All programs are free and at Harmony Arboretum unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

July 9: Tomato Pest Management, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The pests are coming! The pests are coming! Actually, by this time, some of them will already be threatening the productivity of your garden’s tomatoes, so join the discussion about pest identification, prevention, and management.

July 11: Astronomy at the Arboretum, 9:00-10:15 p.m. Spend an evening under the stars! Introduction to stars, constella-tions, star lore, and other space-related topics - includes a stargaz-ing tour. Dress for the weather, hot beverages will be provided; if inclement weather, event will be cancelled. Free public program. Call 715-732-7780 for more information.

July 30: “Corn”ucopia, 6:oo p.m. until the corn is gone! Join UW-Extension staff and Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers for a celebration of sweet corn. You’ll be able to sample different cultivars and corn recipes, learn about safe sweet corn preservation methods, and gain plant and pest management information for the rest of 2013 and upcoming years.

Update - Children’s Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum



One project nearer completion in the Children’s Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum is the “serpent” made from old tractor tires half buried in the ground. Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Ag/Horticulture Agent puts in the final shovel full of soil as Northern Lights Master Gardener Volunteers and members of the Volunteer Center of Marinette County take a breather. In the left foreground, Master Gardener Mary Rosner plants the large topiary turtle with thyme. A sailboat-shaped sandbox will complete this nautical activity area of the garden.

The Children’s Garden and the Arboretum are free & open to the public year round. For more information about these areas or how you can help, please contact Linda Warren in the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.

